

COUNTY OF ERIE,
NEW YORK

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Legislator Dixon supports passage of state law protecting vulnerable residents
- Repairs to Eden Evans Center Road.
- Prom Dress Drive continues through April 8.
- Residents honored at Legislative Sessions.

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News from Legislator

Lynne Dixon

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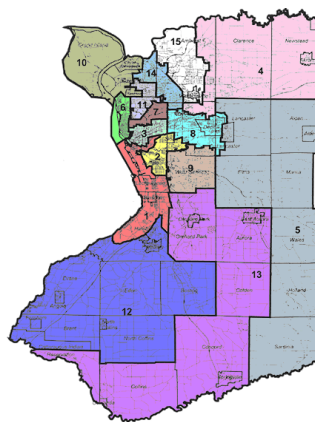
MARCH 2011

Redistricting Underway - 4 seats to be removed

The Advisory Committee on Reapportionment has been meeting to draft a plan that would remove four districts in the Erie County Legislature.

In November voters decided to reduce the size of the Legislature from 15 to 11 districts. An advisory committee is required by charter to develop, and formally submit, a recommendation on how to decrease the Legislature.

Minority Leader John J. Mills announced his appointees on February 9: **Ms. Martha Lamparelli, Mr. Emilio Colaiacovo, Mr. Jorge S. de Rosas, Mr. Jonathan S.**



Hickey, Mr. Brian Wittmeyer, and Mr. Brian R. Biggie.

Residents can comment on the process during public hearings. The following hearings have been scheduled:

- 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 12 at ECC City Campus Auditorium.
- 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 13 at ECC North Campus, K Building Lecture Hall, Room 100.
- 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 14 at ECC South Campus Auditorium, Building 5.

Recent census numbers show that many suburbs increased in population while the City of Buffalo dropped 10%. These figures will be used to draft the final plan, which is expected sometime in May.

If you have any questions, please contact my office.

Legislator Dixon leads charge to keep Wind Farms out of Lake Erie

During the March 17, 2011 Legislative Session, Legislator Dixon presented her resolution stating the County's opposition to the construction of wind farms in the Great Lakes.

Joining other counties, including Niagara and Chautauqua, the Legislature supported Legislator Dixon's resolution, sending a message of opposition.

"I am glad the Legislature

approved my resolution sending a strong message about protecting our Great Lakes. By doing so we are taking a stand on the issue, especially on behalf of our communities surrounding Lake Erie and for all who use it for recreation," Legislator Dixon said.

In her resolution Legislator Dixon states several reasons for opposing a wind farm, including

disruptions to wildlife habitats, which is detrimental to the sport fishing tourism industry, and they could dislodge toxins that settled to the lake floor having a disastrous environmental impact.

To view more information about this announcement and to read the resolution, please visit Legislator Dixon's Website at www.erie.gov/legislature/district12.



Legislator Dixon was honored to serve as the Master of Ceremonies for Highland Hose Volunteer Fire Company's Installation Dinner.

"I am pleased to see some progress and will continue to work on the issue," Legislator Dixon said about Eden Evans Center Road.

Dixon makes a special delivery during Mayors for Meals



Support for 'Laura Cummings Law'

Ensuring that all residents, especially the most vulnerable, are protected is among the top priorities of elected officials. Showing their support for clients of Child and Adult Protective Services, the Erie County Legislature unanimously approved a resolution sponsored by Legislator Dixon at its March 24, 2011 session voicing its support for New York State Senate Bill S. 3306, also known as "Laura Cummings Law."

"The community I represent was deeply affected by the tragic death of Laura Cummings, a young woman with special needs living in North Collins. We need to do everything we can to protect individuals like Ms. Cummings and the proposed state law would make it easier to

investigate claims of abuse against someone," Legislator Dixon said. "State leaders should act on this proposed bill as soon as possible and implement new regulations for workers to use when dealing with difficult cases."

Among the provisions, the law would empower Child or Adult Protective Services to seek a court order to enter premises to investigate claims of abuse if access is denied by the homeowner, and allow Child Protective Services to share information about prior abuse with Adult Protective Service.

It would also make it a Class A misdemeanor to deny Child or Adult Protective Services access to an alleged victim for an interview.

Repairs expected on Eden Evans Center Road

Legislator Dixon drives on Eden Evans Center Road often and knows exactly what residents and motorists are complaining about. It's bumpy, it's an annoyance, and it's dangerous. Due to deteriorating conditions motorists have been driving on the shoulder of the roadway to avoid large potholes. This caused many issues, including

putting pedestrians and residents at risk.

Legislator Dixon worked with the County Executive and Public Works' engineers to plan for repairs. She learned that the road had never been requested for a Capital Improvement Project before she took office. Thanks to Dixon's inquiry and dedication, the roadway has undergone

a study and initial repairs will be determining how to proceed with repairing the nearly 4 mile stretch of roadway between the Thruway and Route 5. Total repair costs are estimated at \$20 million.

"I am pleased to see some progress and will continue to work on the issue," Legislator Dixon said.

Mayors for Meals 2011

Legislator Dixon participated in the March 23, 2011 Mayors for Meals event at the Meals on Wheels for Western New York's site in Hamburg as part of an effort to inspire community

members to take a stand against senior malnutrition. Legislator Dixon joined long-time volunteer Barbara Lockwood and delivered a hot lunch and cold dinner to homebound residents.

"The volunteers who make Meals on Wheels possible are amazing and it was great

to meet with so many of them," Legislator Dixon. "I gained a new appreciation for the program and saw firsthand how it benefits the clients."

More than 1,500 elected officials participated nationwide.

Second Annual Prom Dress Drive Underway



Legislator Dixon stands with the dresses at Urban Valet.

Eric Pyne, owner of Urban Valet Dry Cleaners in Hamburg, will clean all of the donated dresses for free and have them ready for shoppers.

"Through these drives we can recycle beautiful gowns that were probably only worn once and donate them to a girl who otherwise couldn't afford to buy a new dress from the store or to someone just looking to be cautious during these difficult economic times," Dixon said during her March 28 interview with WGRZ. "This is a great community effort and last year the girls enjoyed shopping through the many dresses donated by generous neighbors until they found the perfect one."

After an extremely successful inaugural year, Legislator Dixon's Prom Dress Drive has returned for a second year!

Last year more than 400 dresses were collected and two shopping nights allowed girls from the area to choose a perfect dress for prom, at no cost to them.

This year's drive is now underway and dresses can be dropped off through **Friday, April 8.**

"I am truly thankful for those who have already donated beautiful gowns," Legislator Dixon said.

Girls are welcome to come and shop for a free prom dress from **7-9 p.m. Friday, April 29 or 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, April 30** at Eden Jr./Sr. High School Cafeteria, 3150 Schoolview Road, Eden.



Promoting the Dress Drive on WKBW's morning show.

Drop off locations for Prom Dress Drive:

- **Boston Library**
9475 Boston State Road
- **Eden Boys and Girls Club**
8284 North Main Street
- **Evans Town Hall**
8787 Erie Road
- **Hamburg Library**
102 Buffalo Street
- **Lake Shore Library**
S. 4857 Lake Shore Road
- **North Collins Library**
2095 School Street
- **Urban Valet Dry Cleaners**
106 Evans Street

Shopping Days:

- Eden Jr./Sr. High School**
3150 Schoolview Road, Eden
- ◆ 7-9 p.m. Friday, April 29
 - ◆ 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, April 30

Valentines for Veterans a huge success —Thousands of cards made!

On Feb. 1, 2011 Legislator Dixon visited Charlotte Elementary School in the Hamburg District and Highland Elementary School in the Lake Shore District to talk with students about the importance of the Valentines for Veterans program. The following schools also participated: Big Tree Elementary, John T. Waugh Elementary, Grover L. Priess Primary and Eden Elementary. Hundreds of cards were handmade for the VA Hospital in Buffalo.

Legislator Dixon thanks all the students for their hard work and for taking the time to let veterans know they are appreciated.



Highland Elementary students hard at work.



Charlotte Elementary students show they care!



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Erie County's vision: Erie County will be a world-class community where People want to live, Businesses want to locate and Tourists want to

I am pleased to send you my second newsletter and announce many exciting events happening in Erie County.

Foremost, at the end of last year the Minority Caucus upheld the County Executive's budget vetoes, blocking \$8 million from being added to the 2011 budget. I was pleased to participate in a process that held the line on taxes and protected all of your wallets.

Also, in February the Legislature launched its newly redesigned Website, visit www.erie.gov/legislature. This easy to use format provides residents with up-to-date press releases, community events, park locations, and more. Make sure you check it out!

Thank you for your interest,

Residents honored at Legislative Sessions

Members of the community are honored during each Legislative session. During the months of January, February and March the following individuals or groups were honored:

Pat Domin for 30 years of dedicated service on the Erie County Board of Elections.

Michael Quinn, recipient of the 2010 Scranton Volunteer Fire Company Service Award.

Carmen A. Vacco for his commitment to the community.

Ralph C. Lorigo on receiving the Anthony M. Castiglia Achievement Award from the Italian American Leadership Council.



Lakeview resident Gracie Joyce, the 2011 Variety Kids Telethon Celebrity Child, was presented a proclamation during the March 17, 2011 Session.

Seedling pick-up day is April 16

Just a reminder, if you ordered trees and shrubs, wildflower seed mixes, and seedling packets during the Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District Conservation's Tree and Shrub Seedling Sale, items will be available for pick up on Saturday, April 16 at the Fairgrounds in Hamburg, New York.

For information, please call the Legislative Office at 649-2640 or e-mail lynne.dixon@erie.gov.